

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10, 11, 18-20, 23-26, 28, and 29 are currently pending.

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 8, 19, and 26 to more clearly define the features of those claims.

In the Office Action mailed March 27, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 5-8, 10-11, 18-20, 23-26, 28, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,460,043 to Tabbara et al. (Tabbara) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. US2006/0026113A1 to Omoigui et al. (Omoigui). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

At the outset, Applicants request that the finality of the Office Action be withdrawn because Omoigui, with a filing date of May 10, 2005, is not a proper prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) since the instant application has a filing date of July 31, 2003—predating Omoigui by almost two years. Moreover, although Omoigui claims priority to U.S. Application No. 10/179,651, filed June 24, 2002 (hereinafter “the CIP”), that priority claim is as a **continuation-in-part** and the Examiner has not made any showing that the CIP supports the Omoigui disclosure relied upon by the Examiner in the Office Action. Because Omoigui with a filing date of May 10, 2005 does not constitute prior art, Applicants request that the finality of the previous Office Action be withdrawn. Moreover, because Omoigui does not constitute prior art to the instant application, the rejection of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a combination of features including, among other things, “converting, at a semantic object provider, the received semantic request to a

generic request having corresponding request parameters, the semantic object provider comprising an interface component to create an object, an implementation object to provide persistency, and an object registry.” Claim 1 also includes “initiating, by the semantic object provider, a creation of the object for receiving and converting the semantic request.”

Although Tabbara teaches a “conceptual query language” (Abstract) and Omoigui teaches “semantic searches” (para. [0078]), neither Tabbara nor Omoigui suggests or discloses the “semantic object provider” recited in claim 1. As a consequence, neither of the cited references discloses or suggests at least the following feature of claim 1: “converting, at a semantic object provider, the received semantic request to a generic request having corresponding request parameters, the semantic object provider comprising an interface component to create an object, an implementation object to provide persistency, and an object registry.” Because neither Tabbara nor Omoigui discloses or suggests the noted feature of claim 1, claim 1 is patentable over Tabbara and Omoigui, whether taken alone or in combination. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Since neither Tabbara nor Omoigui teaches a “semantic object provider,” neither of these references can possibly suggest or disclose the “initiating, by the semantic object provider, a creation of the object for receiving and converting the semantic request” feature of claim 1. Because neither Tabbara nor Omoigui discloses or suggests this noted feature of claim 1, claim 1 is patentable over Tabbara and Omoigui, whether taken alone or in combination. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn for this additional reason.

Independent claims 8, 19, and 26, although of different scope, include features similar to those noted above for claim 1. For at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 1, claims 8, 19, and 26 as well as claims 10, 11, 18, 20, 23-25, 28, and 29 (at least by reason of their dependency from corresponding independent claims 8, 19, and 26) are patentable over Tabbara and Omoigui, whether taken alone or in combination, and the rejection of those claims under 35 USC § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

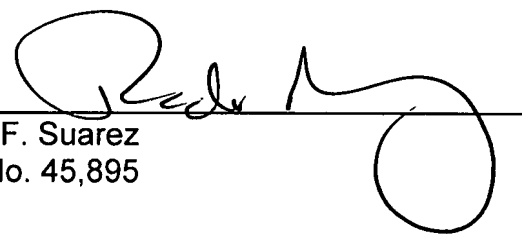
Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner continue to dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

On the basis of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. No fee is believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-081-UTL/2002P10157US.

Respectfully submitted,

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